

THE FRONTLINE

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November 22, 2007



Vanguard dining facility open for Thanksgiving meals, see Page 1B



Pvt. Chaise Archer, 10th Transportation Battalion, attempts to walk a straight line at the installation-wide Safety Day held at Fort Stewart, Nov. 20 using vision-impaired goggles, also known as ‘beer goggles.’ See story on Page 3A.

Sgt. Tanya Polk

President Bush thanks Division

George W. Bush
President of the United States

I send greetings to those celebrating the 90th anniversary of the 3rd Infantry Division of the United States Army. Since the founding of our republic, every generation of Americans has produced proud patriots willing to sacrifice for the liberty and security of our nation. These heroes have demonstrated that freedom is the mightiest force on Earth and set a standard of idealism and courage for the world. Since World War I, the “Rock of the Marne” has defended the United States in times of need and established a lasting heritage of service to

our country. All of us who live in liberty live in their debt, and we will never forget their sacrifice. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank all members of the 3rd Infantry Division, both past and present, for protecting our citizens and laying a foundation of peace for generations to come. This event is an opportunity to renew the strong bonds of friendship you forged in adversity and celebrate the proud history and achievements of the “Dog Face Soldiers.” Your continued commitment to each other and our country is an inspiration. Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, and may God bless America.

DOIM improves travel safety with call boxes

Bruce Muncher
Frontline Contributor

Driving one of the roads leading into the Fort Stewart cantonment area is quiet a travel. The Fort Stewart Cantonment area is 25 miles from Richmond Hill, Pembroke, or Glennville. Un-foreseen mishaps or mechanical breakdowns can happen at any time. Recent improvements in the placement of additional cell phone towers along Hwy 144 east and west and tree top cell tower transmitters along Hwy 119 can not provide consis-

tent, strong cell phone signal for all cell phone service providers. Issues dealing with emergency communication needs on the installation were aired during a recent Army Family Action Plan meeting. To assist in the advent of an accident or a mechanical breakdown and to ensure the safety of all travelers on the Fort Stewart highways, the Directorate of Information Management recently appraised the communication short-falls and added additional emergency call boxes along both Hwy 144 and Hwy 119.

See PHONE

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Stewart-Hunter CYS helps warriors in transition with child care

Frontline Staff

Injured Soldiers returning to Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, and undergoing care with the Warrior Transition Unit have added assistance with free child care through Child and Youth Services. “This service helps the Family to get doctors appointments, and other WTU services, without worrying about finding quality care for their children,” said Maria Boiza, CYS program operations specialist.

See CYS

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CYS provides all services at no cost for WTU Soldiers, their Families and/or appointed caregiver without a military dependent ID card. The children do not have to be registered; Families interested in having their children registered may do so at the CYS Central Registration office located at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building 443 Lindquist Road. For more information on how to register please call 767-2312 for Fort Stewart, point of contact is Ms. Meckaela Smith, outreach services director and 315-5425 for Hunter Army Airfield, point of contact is Jennifer Bishop, Hunter Army

Airfield OSR. Boiza said that services include, but are not limited to free child care the first Saturday of the month. If that Saturday falls on a holiday weekend, the center will open the following Saturday. The free Saturday provides free child care 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Child Development Center, building 403 for newborns to five-year-old, and at the School Age Services, building 6571 for children six to 12-years-old, at Stewart. The same services are provided at Hunter Child Development Center, building 1284 and Hunter School Age Services, 1289.

Installation reminds temp passes required for access

Special to the Frontline

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield requires temporary vehicle passes for all private vehicles that do not have a valid Department of Defense decals. Access for vehicles with DoD decals has not changed. All individuals requiring access to Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield will be screened to ensure no unauthorized personnel are allowed installation access. Issuing temporary vehicle passes to all private vehicles without a DoD decal increases the security of the installation. The safety and security of the Soldiers, Families, and civilian employees on the installation is a priority of Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, especially

during the 3rd Infantry Division's current deployment. Temporary passes are issued at the following gates:

- Fort Stewart: Gate 1 (General Stewart Way and General Screven Way), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Fort Stewart: Gate 3 (Harmon Avenue and Old Sunbury Road), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Fort Stewart: Gate 5 (GA Highway 119 and 144), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Hunter Army Airfield: Wilson Gate (White Bluff Road), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Hunter Army Airfield: Montgomery Gate (Montgomery Street); daily from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

See PASS

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Lina Satele

The 139th Military Police Company activates in a ceremony Nov. 16 in front of building 211, Fort Stewart, as the unit joins the ranks of the 385th MP Battalion. See story on Page 8A.

Marne 6 Sends CG: Thankful for DogFace Soldiers, Marne Families

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Happy Thanksgiving! We are thinking of you and wishing we could be back home with you this holiday season. Even though we are thousands of miles from home, you all are in our hearts and minds. Not a day goes by that we do not think of you.

This Thanksgiving, I am very thankful for all of the Dog Face Soldiers across the 3rd Infantry Division. Dog Face Soldiers are serving on freedom's frontier to protect the American way of life. Every day they make sacrifices, and today, they sacrifice a Thanksgiving meal with their Families. They know they fight terrorism here and now so our children and their children do not have to fight it in the

United States.

Yesterday, General David H. Petraeus re-enlisted more than 300 Soldiers in magnificent ceremony celebrating the Division's 90th Birthday.

For 90 years, Dog Face Soldiers have fought our Nation's wars because America called upon us. America calls upon us now, and Marne Soldiers continue to rise to the occasion.

The Division's history is rich, and Soldiers are continually making history every day.

I am so thankful for each and every Soldier. Eight months ago, the 3rd Infantry Division deployed to Iraq to



help with the southern Baghdad belts and the southern provinces. Back then there were more than 20 attacks every day and now attacks are down to less than five per day.

Over the course of these eight months, the Soldiers have rid insurgents of their sanctuaries and fought in hard kinetic operations to achieve these effects. They deserve all of the credit.

The Soldiers were the ones that developed the concerned citizens program. The Iraqis joined the Soldiers on their crusade to fight terrorism in order to protect their neighborhoods and keep Al Qaeda away from

their families.

I am also thankful for the leaders across this formation. Team leaders and squad leaders are ensuring Soldiers are doing the things right, and platoon leaders and company commanders are ensuring Soldiers are doing the right things.

Today's fight is fought at the company level, and across the Division, we have over 40 patrol bases and combat outposts where young leaders are taking the fight to the enemy.

Today, our thoughts turn to our Families, but I am most thankful for my Army Family and all of the Soldiers in Task Force Marne. Every day they make me proud.

Rock of the Marne!



The Marne Division turns 90

Frontline Staff

The 3rd Infantry Division rear-detachment staff gathered at Building 1, Nov. 20, to help commemorate the Marne Division's 90th birthday.

The staff held a brief birthday ceremony, complete with a cake cutting on the porch of the old wooden headquarters, in the shadows of the much larger, modern state-of-the-art facility, which is currently under construction.

Lt. Col. Brian Gale, 3rd Inf. Div. rear-detachment commander; Sgt. Johnny W. Short, 135th Quartermaster Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade; and Sarah Lynch, wife to 3rd Inf. Div. Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Rick

Lynch helped cut and serve the cake, which was made by Short.

"This is fitting that we celebrate this occasion in this manner," said Gale. "This is a proud division. There is so much history written, from World War I to leading the charge in the Global War on Terror."

Gale said the legacy of the 3rd Inf. Div. is larger than any single individual and that the patch is a tribute to all the individuals who wore it, and helped forge its history.

The modern 3rd Inf. Div., like its historic counter-part, can be found at the front of the nation's efforts, reliable and steadfast as the "Rock of the Marne."

For more, see the Special to the Frontline, Marne Division Birthday insert.

A Moment in Marne History: Demonstrating stability as "Rock of the Marne"

Commentary by
Sasha McBrayer
Fort Stewart Museum

The Rock of the Marne story is a cornerstone to the 3rd Infantry Division's history. That momentous occasion occurred in France during World War I. The legacy would grow in World War II, when the division was involved in a major battle near the Rhine River in Germany. The Marne and Rhine are often confused, but the Rhine River is distinct in many ways. At over 800 miles in length, the Rhine originates high in the Swiss Alps. As it trails southward through Europe, it creates a southern border between Germany and France. There are many old castles built along the Rhine and folklore associated with the river.

One such story surrounds Loreley (also spelled 'Lorelei', from the Old German for 'murmuring rock' or 'lurking rock'), which is a high rock formation on the eastern bank of the Rhine. As a child in Schweinfurt, Germany I was told of a mythical

young maiden who had taken her own life by leaping from the precipice into the churning River below. Many said the girl, Lorelei, became a Siren of great beauty who would sing enchantingly, drawing sailors toward her and the dangerous rocks below. The real explanation for so many accidents in this area was the fateful mix of heavy currents, a noisy waterfall and sounds echoing off the rock.

Vicki Hester, a Fort Stewart historian detailed in a 2006 Frontline article, that the 3rd Inf. Div. played a paramount job in a battle along the Rhine, which reinforced the motto "Rock of the Marne."

Hester said that in 1944, the Marne Division was part of VI Corps, they were playing their part in "cracking the Winter Line" of the German Army between St. Dié in the Vosges Mountains and Strasbourg on the west bank of the Rhine. The Germans had expected to spend the winter comfortably and enjoyably in the mountain towns, as the number of skis and snowshoes found with cap-

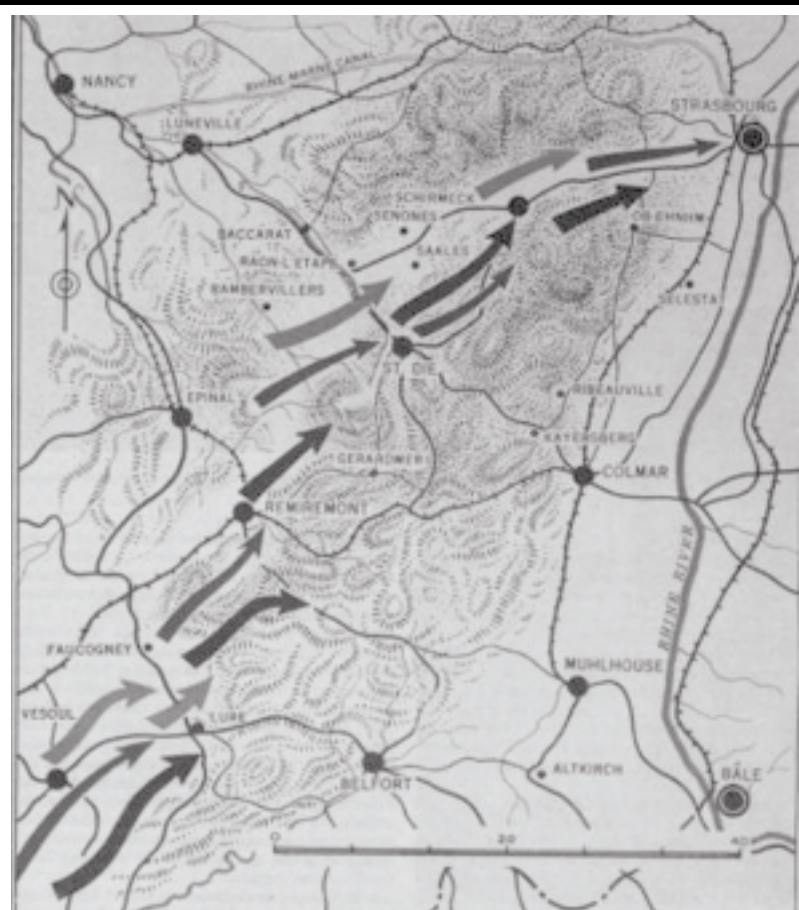
tured German soldiers revealed.

Instead, the 3rd Inf. Div. overwhelmed them, according to Hester, and despite facing zigzag fire trenches, machine-gun emplacements, concrete bunkers, forts that were once part of the Maginot Line and occasional house-to-house fighting; it made its way over more than fifty miles of terrain never before crossed by an army against organized resistance in only a week, arriving at the outskirts of Strasbourg, Nov. 27.

By December the 3rd Inf. Div. regiments were spreading out from Strasbourg along the Rhine and had split the German forces in their sector into two groups.

Hester noted the VI Corps Commander Maj. Gen. Edward H. Brooks praised the Marne Division.

"To fight cross-country, in the face of unreasoning, stubborn Nazi resistance, at times supplying over snow-covered mountain roads and trails, through this region and at this season of the year, is a military achievement of which all who participated can be justly proud," Brooks said.



Courtesy of the Fort Stewart Museum

Operation Marne Courageous kicks off Nov 16

Tim Kilbride
MND-C Public Affairs

Baghdad — Operation Marne Courageous kicked off in the early morning of Nov. 16 with more than 600 Coalition Forces and Iraqi army soldiers moving into two villages near the border of Anbar province to drive out al-Qaida in Iraq, and lay groundwork for a sustained Coalition presence.

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), were joined by about 150 Iraqi army soldiers in the air assault on the Sunni villages of Owesat and al Betra, west of the Euphrates River and approximately 15 miles southwest of Baghdad.

Troops were transported in four helicopter lifts across the Euphrates, utilizing two CH-47 Chinook helicopters and eight UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. A Marine reconnaissance platoon, as well as Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, stationed in neighboring Anbar province, secured the landing zone.

Once on the ground, the U.S.-Iraqi force was supported by an air weapons team of Apache and Kiowa helicopters, while approxi-

mately 70 Iraqi Concerned Local Citizens assisted in securing the outlying perimeter.

While U.S. and Iraqi forces moved through the villages, other troops set to work constructing a bridge across the Euphrates to allow for the transport of materials and supplies to build a patrol base in the area. The base will allow for a sustained Coalition presence in the area of Owesat, part of Baghdad's southwestern "belts."

No enemy fighters were killed or captured during the assault.

Prior to the air assault, U.S. F-16 fighter jets dropped two 2000-pound bombs on an island in the Euphrates that was believed to be used by AQI as a staging ground for attacks. The bombardment was part of a "terrain denial" strategy, cutting off a potential AQI escape route and denying the enemy a location to regroup.

Marne Courageous' main strategic thrust is to clear AQI extremists from the area of Owesat, establish a coalition presence, and develop a concerned citizens program in the

area as a bulwark against further enemy activity.

Army Col. Dominic Caraccilo, commander of the 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., described the mission to journalists Nov. 11. "We're going to put a footprint there. We're going to establish a forward operating base," he said.

The mission was also conducted because Coalition Forces believe the al-Qaida operating in the area were involved with the May 12 attack which resulted in two missing/captured U.S. Soldiers, Pvt.

Byron Fouty and Spc. Alex Jimenez belonging to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). The 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., took over the mission of the 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. at the end of October.

"The Soldiers that were captured and still missing from the 10th Mountain are now part of the Rakkasan unit, and also part of the Task Force Marne unit. And the mission I have is to exploit every avenue to try to identify where they are," Caraccilo said.



Courtesy images

Images from an unmanned aerial vehicle of an impact from a U.S. F-16 fighter jets dropping two 2000-pound bombs on an island in the Euphrates that was believed to be used by al-Qaida as a staging ground for attacks, Nov. 16.

Installation enforces safety first



Sgt. 1st Class David Oberheuser tries on the vision-impaired goggles at the installation's Safety Day. The goggles showed Soldiers how the world looks through the eyes of a person with a blood alcohol content of .17 or greater.

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

Not all of the risks are in Iraq. The 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield want to make its Soldiers and civilians aware of risks in an effort to teach safety first.

Pausing from the normal work-day, the installation took the time to not only wish the Marne Division a happy 90th birthday, but also to hold an installation-wide Safety Day, Nov. 20.

Sponsored by the Installation Safety Office and the Directorate of Emergency Services, a variety of displays that stress the importance of safety were set up.

"We're trying to have a good time, and at the same time put some emphasis on safety during the holiday and travel period that we're about to get into," said Jim McCullough, installation safety director.

Stewart-Hunter puts on an installation-wide safety day twice a year; one prior to the 100 Critical Days of Summer Safety campaign in May, and one before the winter holiday season.

By tracking statistics sent out from the Combat Readiness Safety Center, the safety office can effectively provide the troops with necessary and current training.

The CRSC shows that the number one killer of troops across the Army is privately owned vehicle accidents, said McCullough.

In an effort to prevent vehicle accidents, a roll-over display demonstrated what can happen to the driver and passengers who opt not to wear seatbelts. Two additional displays by the Fort Stewart police helped show Soldiers the impact of driving under the influence of alcohol.

The Stewart police simulated alcohol impairment through vision-impaired goggles or 'beer goggles' which showed what the world would look like through the eyes of a person whose blood alcohol content is at .17 or greater.

Equipped with the goggles, Soldiers tried to follow police-ordered instructions normally given to intoxicated drivers such as walking in a straight line, following a flashlight, and standing on one foot.

"As soon as you put them (goggles) on, your stomach starts to get queasy," said Sgt. 1st Class

David Oberheuser, who struggled to find his ID card through the densely fogged lens.

While the vision-impaired goggles threw troops off balance, a ride on the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, an electronically operated go-cart, caused Soldiers to loose control of the wheel.

"It simulates what a higher level of intoxication can do to a driver," said Chris McCormick, an employee of the Installation Safety Office and SIDE operator.

With the press of a button, McCormick forced drivers to hit cones and swerve off of the safety course.

"You think you're doing well, and all of a sudden you hit a cone," said Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Hoover, equal opportunity advisor with Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div. who attempted to drive the SIDE. "That cone could very well be a person."

"Hopefully, Soldiers see through this training that you can not drive drunk," she said.

In addition to POV accident prevention, game wardens spoke of hunting, fishing and boating safety; and the fire department performed the "Jaws of Life" as they cut the roof-top off a vehicle and demonstrated how they pry people out of a totaled car. A motorcycle safety class was taught, and the 3rd Inf. Div. Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, reminded Soldiers to stay safe in a video sent from Iraq.

New to Safety Day was an "intoxi-clock" which takes weight and alcohol by volume and demonstrates how much alcohol one can consume before becoming intoxicated.

"You have to increase awareness and keep people focused on the fact that sometimes you can be a victim just as easily as you can be the cause," said McCullough of the importance of Safety Day. "Not every Soldier or every civilian that's involved in an accident is the cause of the accident - periodically, they are the victims."

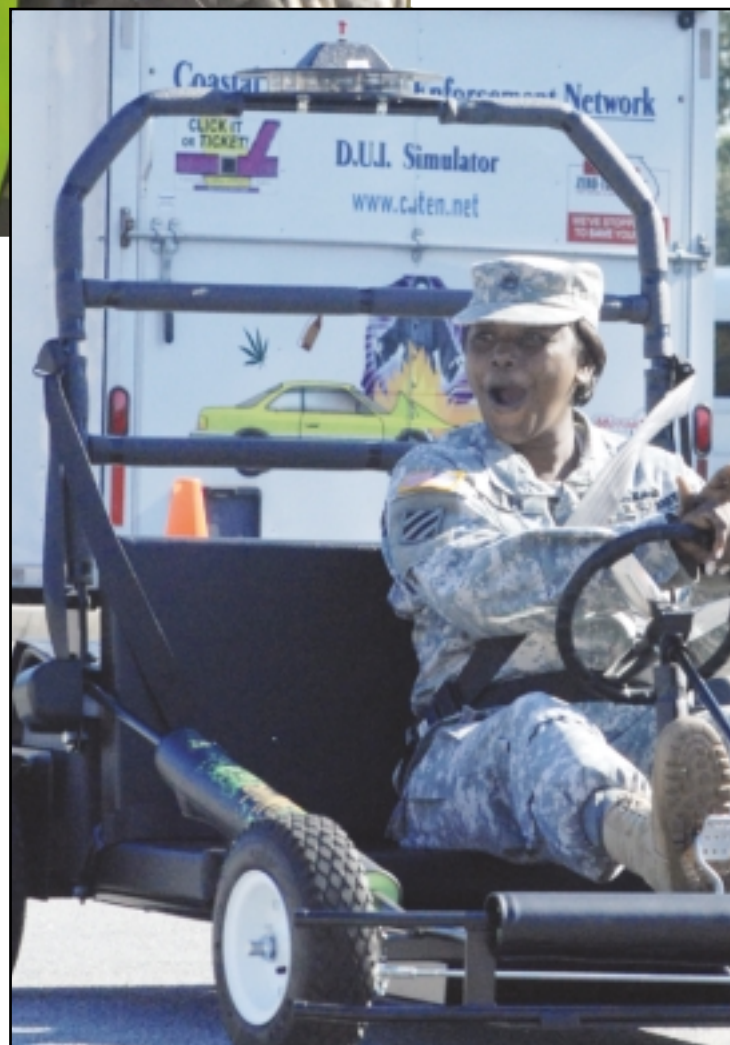
"What you have to do is create awareness and say 'how do I prevent myself from becoming a victim, and at the same time how do I prevent myself from being the cause?'"

For more information on how you can stay safe, contact the Installation Safety Office at 767- 8132.



Lieutenant James Gillis, DES Traffic Management and Investigation officer at Fort Stewart asks Pvt. Chaise Archer, 10th Trans., to follow a pen with his eyes through vision-impaired goggles, also known as "beer goggles", at the installation's Safety Day.

Graphic by Pat Young



Photos by Sgt. Tanya Polk

Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Hoover, equal opportunity advisor with HHSC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div., tries to steer the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience vehicle through cones on a safety course, Nov. 20.

Mock Billing Town Hall meeting scheduled Dec 4-5

Directorate of Public Works

Live in on-post housing? Need extra cash? Then attend one of the two Mock Billing Town halls: Fort Stewart, 6 p.m., Dec. 4, Moon Theater; or Hunter Army Airfield, 6 p.m., Dec. 5 at New Gannam Community Center.

Families residing in new housing areas at Stewart-Hunter began receiving mock electricity bills in their mailboxes in June. To understand more about mock billing and how to put cash in your pocket "all Families" are encouraged to attend one of the two Mock Billing Town Hall meetings listed above. A representative from ista North America, the third party Billing Company, will conduct a short briefing and answer questions. ista North America is the global leader in the consumption-based metering and resident billing for more than 11 million homes worldwide.

Residents in "new" housing at Stewart and Hunter are receiving monthly "mock" electricity bills from ista and will receive these "mock" electricity bills for one year (June 2007 to May 2008), followed by the "actual" billing.

Residents in "all other" homes will receive monthly "mock" electricity bills in the future. While mock billing will determine the utilities consumption baseline, the "actual" Billing period will determine if you get "money in your pocket" for conserving electricity.

Residents who conserve electricity will receive a rebate or credit, while those who exceed their baseline will pay for utilities used in excess of the baseline.

The new homes included in mock billing are Stewart's Liberty Woods, Southern Oaks and Coastal Ridge areas and Hunter's New Gannam, New Savannah and New Callaway area. These residents should not be alarmed/excited as no actual charges/rebates to residents will occur until June

2008. During mock billing, residents' utility consumption will be compared to an established baseline average monthly utility consumption for similar size homes with similar components. Soldiers will not have to pay any portion of their utility usage for approximately one year. Along with the mock bills, Families are also receiving monthly energy tips and training on how to be more "energy efficient."

Under the one-year mock billing program, residents should see how much energy they're using and make improvements, if necessary, before they become responsible for consumption.

The point of contact for Fort Stewart is the GMH Community Center office at 408-2460, and for Hunter Army Airfield is the GMH Community Center office at 459-2133. For billing questions please call the billing company at 1-800-569-3014 (ista North America).

Remember holiday driving safety

Directorate of Emergency Services

The holiday shopping season is upon us once again. The Traffic Management and Accident Investigations office has put together a few helpful hints to help you safely navigate your travels during your shopping:

- Never drive in a hurry!
- Never block your rear window with shopping bags.
- Shopping without your children is ok; they can sometimes test your patience, cause distractions and interfere with your driving.
- Never park too close to another vehicle - it's better to walk a few feet more than to have your vehicle damaged.
- Always remove dew and frost from your windows, as it will obstruct your view.
- Practice the posted parking lot speed limit of 10 mph.
- Be wary of children running out from in between vehicles.
- Finish cell phoning friends about your new purchases before you re-

enter the traffic lane from your parking spot.

- Observe and obey new traffic signage as it sometimes changes during the holidays to adjust traffic problem areas.

- Finally, if you happen to witness a traffic accident, remember your information is valuable. Notify the police if you observe an unsafe traffic related act. "He said- she said" in the middle of a parking lot can ruin your day or even lead to bigger problems. Always call the police if you are in a traffic accident. "Let's handle it between ourselves" rarely works out for the victim.

By driving defensively and putting in place just a few control measures, your shopping experience won't become a "Trafficmare" before Christmas.

This holiday message has been brought to you from the Traffic Management and Accident Investigations Office of the Fort Stewart police and the Directorate of Emergency Services. They may be reached at 767-9595.

Pot Luck and Christmas Music Fest

Main Post Chapel

Dec. 9

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

For more information please contact
CH Don McDaniel
at (912) 767-9834 or
don.mcdaniel@us.army.mil

Community Watch Needs You



Wanted

Community Volunteers

To Take a Bite Out of Crime

- Need **Concerned Residents** to work with community leaders and law enforcement to establish community watches.

Contact your local Mayor or log on to www.myarmylifetoo.com or call
Stewart Community Police Officers at 767-4895 or Hunter Police Station at 315-5214




Marne Voices Speak Out

What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

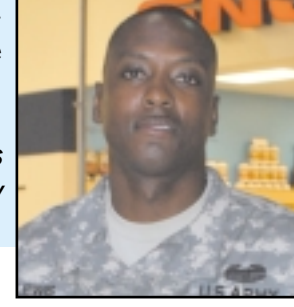
"Spend time with Family and be thankful for them!"

Pvt. Fredrick Credeur
4/64 Armor, 4th BCT




"A time of sharing and appreciation for the time you have with your Family."

Sgt. 1st Class John Lewis
Replacement Company




"A time to be thankful for everything God gives us, friends. Family, and freedom."

Keri Perry
Family member




"It means a day to relax and watch football."

Pfc. Shawn McLean
Co. B, 92nd Engineers




"Spend time with Family who you love, and eat lots of turkey and mash potatoes!"

Megan Grimes
Family member



"Lots and lots of glorious food that is not Iraqi DFAC food."

Pfc. Ryan Brady
HHC, 92nd Engineers



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Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Sgt. John Harris, Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, ground guides an M88 Wrecker during an operation Nov. 15 in Al Bawi. The operation resulted in the detention of one suspected insurgent.

3/1 Cav captures high-value individual

Special to the Frontline

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Scouts from the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment’s Time Sensitive Target Team apprehended an insurgent during a night raid near Tameem, Nov. 13.

Leaders in the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, considered the insurgent a high-value individual.

Second Lt. John Lorme, team leader of the TST, explained that the capture of the individual was another big step in clearing 3/1 Cav. Regt.’s area of operation of insurgents.

“This is the nineteenth HVI we’ve gotten in eight months here,” Lorme said. “Missions like this are becoming more of a

battle drill for the platoon. From our youngest private first class to our platoon sergeant everyone is doing great.”

The detainee was wanted in connection to indirect fire attacks on Combat Outpost Cashe and improvised explosive device attacks on 3rd HBCT forces in 3/1st Cav. Regt. and 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment’s areas of operation.

“The capture of a suspected Shia extremist with experience conducting explosively formed penetrator attacks and 107 mm rocket attacks on Coalition Forces is a huge success for 3/1 Cav. and the 3rd HBCT,” said Maj. David Fivecoat, the operations officer of the 3rd HBCT.

“His detention eliminates a dangerous insurgent from the Mada’in Qada.”

1/15th Infantry detains 10, kills 1

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, conducted an air assault early Nov. 11 near Al Bawi, resulting in 10 suspected extremists detained and one killed.

During the air assault, Company A Soldiers cleared 17 buildings of weapons and military paraphernalia.

All detainees were brought in for ques-

tioning.

“In the past, the Al Bawi area has been a stronghold for al-Qaeda,” said Capt. Joshua Powers, assistant operations officer, 1/15th Inf. Regt.

“We used an air insertion to disrupt an area they thought was a safe haven. This operation sends a clear message to the insurgents in the area that we will continue to bring the fight to them. The people of that area see that we are actively pursuing the enemy and will eventually rid the area of their influence.”

IED triggermen killed by CAB Apaches

Special to the Frontline
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Apache helicopters killed two improvised explosive device triggermen along Route Tampa south of Baghdad, Nov. 16.

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment called in the Apaches, part of 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division when an

IED was detected.

“Our aircraft were called in to provide security as the Coalition Forces patrol reduced the threat,” said Lt. Col. Greg Kanicki, operations officer, 3rd CAB.

While performing the security mission the pilots spotted two individuals hiding in a field nearby.

The individuals were identified as the IED triggermen by the ground commander. The pilots then fired a Hellfire missile and 30mm cannon rounds,

killing the insurgents.

Kanicki said this was another example of how aviation works closely with the ground forces during these missions.

“As long as insurgents attack Coalition Forces, Iraqi security forces and innocent civilians we will seek to support the ground troops’ efforts to destroy and capture those insurgents,” Kanicki said.

“When troops are in contact we want to be there.”

Get news from the front

Watch the 3rd Infantry Division’s 30-minute newscast “Freedom Report” on “Marne TV,” Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. EST and Sundays at 11:30 p.m. EST.

View news from the front and local at www.stewart.army.mil

Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Moonlight Bowling

24 Nov – 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Stewart Lanes

Attention night owls!!! Come enjoy a fun-filled night of moonlight bowling. the cost is \$2 per game, per person and \$.75 shoe rental. The snack bar will have a special menu available including nachos and funnel cakes. 767-4273.

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Club Stewart will hold fun night for teens

24 Nov – 7-11 p.m., Club Stewart

Rockets at Club Stewart will be open to Family members (ages 13-17) with Military ID. The military ID holder may bring one guest and all teens will be checked for ID and wrist banded. A variety of music will be played by a DJ, & nachos, chips, soda and energy drinks will be for sale. Other activities include a pool table, foosball and big screen TV in the Headlights Room. There will be extra facility staff will be present and conduct codes will be strictly enforced. There will be a \$5 cover charge. 368-2212.

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GC Golf Scramble

30 Nov – 8 a.m., Taylors Creek Golf Course

The GC Golf Scramble for Nov is coming up. The early bird registration deadline is Nov. 29: \$25 for members/\$30 for non-members. Day of event: \$35 for members/\$40 for non-members. First 25 teams only. 767-2370.

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Hunter Safety Course

**1 Dec – 9:30 a.m., Holbrook Pond
Recreation Area, Bldg 8325**

This course is required for hunting on Fort Stewart or Hunter. Register for class on the GA Dept. of Natural Resources website at www.gadnr.org (see Liberty County). 435-8205.

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Christmas Brunch

2 Dec - 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Club Stewart

Come join us for a tasty Christmas meal on Dec. 2 at Club Stewart. The menu features our famous breakfast items and a carving station. Carving station will offer roast beef with condiments & assorted rolls, turkey with gravy, cornbread dressing, cranberry sauce, candied yams, Prince Edward Island blend, corn nuggets, peach crepes, breakfast items, assorted desserts, 3 chocolate fountains (white, dark, milk chocolate), hot apple cider & mimosa's. There will also be a visit from Santa. \$11.95 per person, children 5-10 half price, 4 and under FREE. Get \$1 off each meal with a church bulletin. 368-2212.

Warrant officers receive Air Medal

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – Two warrant officers received Air Medals Nov. 12 for their actions in the safe recovery of a damaged Apache.

During a reconnaissance mission Sept. 26, an Apache received enemy fire and was forced to land in Contingency Operating Base Cahill southwest of Baghdad. Chief Warrant Officers Curt Marcus, maintenance test pilot with Company B, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and Marty Caulkins, pilot with Company D, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, were sent to assess the damage of the aircraft. After evaluating the extent of the damage, Marcus and Caulkins decided to repair the aircraft and to fly it back to Baghdad International Airport.

With the help of maintenance Soldiers with Co. B, 603rd ASB, Marcus and Caulkins worked from Sept 27-29 to remove the gun turret and replace the aircraft’s three landing struts and one damaged main rotor blade.

Both were awarded the Air Medal by Col. Daniel Ball, commander of the 3rd Combat

Aviation Brigade, at the 3rd CAB flight line in Baghdad. By choosing to fly the Apache back to BIAP, the officers saved Soldiers from having to retrieve the aircraft through a convoy on dangerous roads, Ball said.

“(The award) was unexpected,” Caulkins said. “I was just doing my job. You never expect awards for doing your job.”

Both officers gave credit to the maintenance crew who worked on the aircraft and who were given Army Commendations Medals for their part in the recovery of the damaged Apache.

“I’m glad for the award but I’m happier to see my mechanics receive awards,” Marcus said. “The mechanics made the repairs so I could fly back.”

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
Chief Warrant Officers Curt Marcus, pilot with Co. B, 603rd ASB, and Marty Caulkins, pilot with Co. D, 1/3 Aviation, were awarded the Air Medal by Col. Daniel Ball, commander of the 3rd CAB, Nov. 12, at the 3rd CAB flight line in Baghdad.



CAB shows diligence, conducts maintenance



Pfc. Monica K. Smith
Spc. Jayson Smith, Co. B, 425th BSTB, 4th BCT (Airborne), 25th ID, performs maintenance work on the propeller of an unmanned aerial system, Oct. 31 at FOB Kalsu.

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Many Soldiers join the military to change the direction of their life, and for the college assistance the military can provide. Spc. Jayson Smith, Company B, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, was no exception.

“I didn’t like the way my life was going so I decided to do something about it,” said Smith. “So I thought, ‘what else can I do? I need to finish college. I’ll join the Army and see what I can do to get my life back.’ It was the best decision I ever made.”

Prior to joining the Army, Smith spent his time working for Sprint and a video rental store while living on his father’s couch.

Smith progressed through basic training, advanced individual training and airborne school before arriving in Alaska to perform generator maintenance on Humvees. A month after arriving, Smith out-qualified his peers in his job performance and was thus chosen to move to the unmanned aerial systems unit where he learned to maintain a UAS while also working on his goal to finish college.

“The (additional military occupational specialty) gave me 27 college credits,” Smith said. “After finishing basic and all the other training,

I had 50 college credits I didn’t have before.”

Now Smith spends each day taking care of a \$600,000 piece of equipment as a member of the UAS Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment out of Forward Operating Base Kalsu. There he works on the UAS aircraft called “Shadow” and also continues to perform his primary task of working on generators, all while displaying the same drive in his work as he does in furthering his education.

“He’s doing well out here,” said Sgt. Justin Bramlett, who has worked with Smith for three years and is also in Co. B, at Kalsu. “I don’t have to worry about anything he’s working on because I know he will get the job done. He is always working to get things done and always completes tasks in a timely form.”

Smith’s determination to complete his work can also be exhibited in his continual pursuit of his collegiate goals.

“I’m taking two classes now; Human Resources and U.S. History Two,” Smith said. “The Army is paying for all my college and if I study in the mechanic area, the possibilities are endless.”

Though the path toward a college diploma is slow, Smith says he will continue to persevere in his work, not forgetting who he is.

“I’m a mechanic,” Smith said. “I work on unmanned aerial vehicles, and I’m in the Army.”

A Family that deploys together, stays together

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Nearly every time Chief Warrant Officer Michael Pruitt flies his Apache in Iraq, his brother, Capt. Joseph Pruitt, knows exactly what’s happening to him, good or bad.

Both brothers’ wives, in turn, also have a finger on the safety and well-being of their husbands and brothers-in-law.

The four Pruitts, Michael, a pilot with 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Joseph, battle captain, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and their wives Capt. Kristi Pruitt, support operations officer, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, and Capt. Alicia Pruitt, personnel officer, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, are all stationed together at Camp Striker in Baghdad with the 3rd CAB, a situation that brings both benefits and a decided downside.

“It’s very cool to be here together,” said Kristi, Michael’s wife. “But it also has a separate sacrifice.”

With most close Family relationships, husband and wife, or siblings, there is a separation during deployment. Spouses and siblings are most often at home, far away from the day-to-day dangers of deployment to a war zone. The Pruitts don’t experience that separation, said Kristi.

Joseph works in the 3rd CAB tactical operations center as the battle captain, a position which gives him a front row seat to everything happening in the 3rd CAB’s operating environment.

“I know when (Michael) is flying,” said Joseph, admitting that he sometimes worries about his brother. “But if (Alicia) flies I do the

same thing.”

At the same time, Joseph said, he realizes they are Soldiers and there isn’t room for compromising the mission by worrying too much.

“If something were to happen I don’t think it would hit until after the battle drill,” Joseph said.

On the flip side is the fact that the Pruitts work in different battalions and are on different schedules, explained Michael.

“It’s good to be able to see each other,” he said, “but it is sometimes difficult not being able to spend quality time with each other.”

While all four Pruitts acknowledge they are able to spend more time together than many other Soldiers and their families, it’s almost like being teased with their close presence and not able to fully experience it.

“We don’t see each other really very much,” Michael said. “We see each other maybe once a week.”

The other issue this raises, said Alicia, is that Soldiering becomes your life. That translates to having no pets, having to rent out your house during deployments, and having no kids.

“We can’t just decide to have babies,” she said. “We have to work around the Army’s schedule.”

Coming together in one brigade in Iraq wasn’t exactly planned, the Pruitts said.

Joseph and Alicia met early on in their careers.

“We kind of ran into each other in (officer basic course) but we really didn’t start dating until Korea,” Joseph said.

Joseph and Alicia were married before moving to the 3rd Infantry Division, where they said they found a pair of slots open; those positions happened to be with the 3rd CAB

where Michael had also moved.

Michael and Kristi subsequently met during a deployment to Iraq in 2005 when they were both with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, of the 3rd CAB. In early 2007 the 3rd CAB was given the word to deploy to Iraq again in May, but they would leave 3/3 Avn. behind, Kristi said. At that time Kristi and Michael were dating, and to keep from being moved to other posts elsewhere in the world, and probably being separated, they decided to transfer to the battalions that were deploying.

Kristi said they weren’t engaged at that point, so their planning was tentative at first.

“I was the one who brought it up initially and (Michael) had heard of a job opening up in 1/3 and said, ‘Okay, I’ll volunteer, too,’”

Kristi said. “So I guess it was to stay together.”

They married by proxy wedding through the State of Montana during this most recent deployment.

“I love the way it is now,” Kristi said. “When (Michael) vents to me I know exactly what he’s talking about. I know not to overreact and he’s really good about doing the same thing. It’s like we speak the same language, you know, the whole military language thing.”

The bond they share, said the Pruitts, goes beyond the bond between Soldiers. It has deep roots in Family and the love they feel for each other.

“I look up to them,” Alicia said of her Family in Iraq. “I only worry when they worry. It’s comforting that they are here.”



Courtesy Photo
The Pruitts (from left), Capt. Alicia Pruitt, her husband Capt. Joseph Pruitt, his brother Chief Warrant Officer Michael Pruitt, and his wife Capt. Kristi Pruitt, pose for a photo on Camp Striker, Baghdad.

Team takes steps to open police station in Arab Jabour

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU – Plans to open the first police station in Arab Jabour commenced with meetings held at the Mahmudiyah Iraqi Police Headquarters and Forward Operating Base Falcon, Nov.1.

Though the police station is still months from establishment, the first steps were taken in Mahmudiyah, when Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and the 153rd Military Police Company, out of Delaware City, Del., met with Mahmudiyah's District Iraqi Police Commander, Brig. Gen. Abbed.

Capt. Lauren Glaze, provost marshal, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and 1st Lt. Daniel A. Deflaviis, platoon leader for 3rd platoon, 153rd MP Co., worked with Abbed to finalize the purchase of a land deed and to request a recruitment drive in Arab Jabour.

The site of the future police station in Arab Jabour sits on land donated by Concerned Local Citizens.

Abbed is assisting Glaze and Deflaviis to expedite transferring the land deed over to the Ministry of Interior in order to begin contracting work for the station's construction.

Abbed was happy to help speed up the process. Abbed said his hope is that the opening of the police station in Arab Jabour will

promote peace and security in the area.

Though his jurisdiction does not include Arab Jabour, Abbed said if people know police are there to help, they will be proactive in their own neighborhoods. He said if people perceive the police as indifferent, it creates the potential for more criminal activity.

Learning that the deed paperwork was just three days away from being finalized, Glaze and Deflaviis left Mahmudiyah and headed to FOB Falcon where they met the man who will be responsible for the Arab Jabour police station, Col. Fatel, Al Rashid district commander.

Glaze explained to Fatel that before work can begin on the site in Arab Jabour, 2nd BCT leaders need to find out if the Ministry of Interior will hold an Iraqi police recruitment drive in Arab Jabour.

Fatel said that he would assist in requesting the recruitment drive, adding that the police station will bring the total of planned police stations in his district to six.

Deflaviis said the opening of a police station in Arab Jabour would add 229 jobs to the local economy and that 2nd BCT leaders have already identified 304 potential candidates.

The pool of potential candidates would come from Arab Jabour and Al Buaytha, an area north of Patrol Base Murray along the Tigris River.



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Lauren Glaze, provost marshal for the 2/3 BTB, 3rd Inf. Div., leaves Mahmudiyah's Iraqi Police Headquarters after a meeting with Brig. Gen. Abbed, commander of the IPs, Nov. 1.

Concerned Citizens in Arab Jabour turn in large weapons cache



Special to the Frontline
3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Concerned Local Citizens found a large weapons cache in Arab Jabour Nov. 12. The cache was so large that three controlled detonations were needed to destroy it.

A CLC reported a buried weapons cache to Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

The concerned citizen led Company A Soldiers to the location of the cache where several barrels containing the munitions were buried.

The cache consisted of 24 60mm rounds, 25 82mm mortar rounds, two 120mm mortar rounds, three 122mm projectiles, three rifle grenades, one 60mm mortar tube, 20 bundles of propellant, 20 pounds of homemade explosives, 40 feet of detonation cord and an anti-tank mine.

After assessing the cache, an explosive ordnance disposal team was called to destroy it.

Courtesy Photo

Concerned Local Citizens found a buried weapons cache in Arab Jabour Nov. 12. The cache was so large it took three controlled detonations to destroy it.

'Battle Boars' conduct civil-military engagement

Special to the Frontline
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Coalition Forces conducted a civil-military engagement at the Harrah School in Al Buaytha Nov. 10 to help local residents with their medical needs.

Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers, the 'Battle Boars', held the medical operation at the school. More than 330 local residents, including 178 children, were seen by the 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., doctors and medics.

Soldiers on the ground reported the atmosphere was positive and the residents

were grateful for the medical care.

"I think it's a great thing for the community," said Capt. Joseph Inge Jr., commander, Company D.

"(This is) a great way to help the people of Al Buaytha; the more we can help them, the more they'll help us, the better the area will be."

Concerned Local Citizens were on hand to provide security at the school, during the CME.

"I don't think it would be as successful without them," Inge said.

"They help us by pointing out the good people and those who may not be so good. That way, they are crucial to the success of the operation."

Former insurgent leads Coalition Forces, Concerned Citizens to huge weapons cache

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – A former member of an insurgent group led coalition forces, Iraqi army and Concerned Local Citizens to a cache site near Patrol Base W-1 in the early morning hours of Nov. 13.

The citizen, who reconciled with U.S. and Iraqi troops, knew where the cache was because he helped bury it sometime ago. He said he is now helping coalition forces because he is tired of al-Qaida trying to force him to work with them. He said al-

Qaida imprisoned him and tortured his friends for not joining forces with them.

The Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and IA found refrigerators that contained numerous rockets, mortars and ammunition.

Finding and destroying a weapons cache of this size will help slow enemy attacks in the area, said Capt. David Underwood, Battery B, 1/9th FA commander. He added that the find boosted the troops' morale.

"Anytime you can find something like this it's big," he said. "It was a huge night for us."

**Read more stories from the front
in the Dog Face Daily.
Check it out at
www.stewart.army.mil**



139th MP Company activates, joins 385th



Lina Satele

Soldiers of the 139th MP Co. salute during the presentation of the colors at the unit's activation ceremony held on Fort Stewart, Nov. 16.

Lina Satele
Frontline Staff

The 385th Military Police Battalion has a new addition to its ranks. The 139th Military Police Company was activated Nov. 16 as part of the 385th Military Police battalion.

"This is a great day," 139th MP Company commander Capt. Andrew Sanders said. "It's a unique advantage for me in that I will be able to mold and shape this unit into not only my vision and my first sergeant's vision but also the Army's vision."

The 139th MP Company was constituted on September 15, 1964 in the regular Army and was originally activated Sept. 24, 1964 at Fort Benning, Ga. The company was later inactivated on January 1, 1983. Now, after 24 years of silence, the 139th MP Company stands again among the active ranks of the 3rd

Infantry Division.

"The need for military police has been evident to American military commanders since the struggle for national independence," said Lt. Col. Donna Martin, 385th Battalion commander. "The Military Police Corps has been a very busy organization during the 57 years of its existence. As one of the most deployed branches of service, it appears that it will continue to remain fully engaged into the foreseeable future."

Soldiers and Family members gathered near the 385th MP battalion headquarters for the ceremony. Some felt great to see history being unfolded in front of other eyes.

"I am looking forward to being part of this unit," said Staff Sgt. Satovia Ragin, a squad leader in 2nd platoon, 139th MP Company, "I am looking forward to our mission and to be successful at doing

it."

The unit will be part of three other companies which will make the battalion seven companies strong. In the upcoming year, Sanders says his unit will be focused on training in preparation for upcoming deployments.

"While you may not have deployment orders yet, and watch the other MP units come and go," Martin said in her remarks to the Soldiers of the 139th MP Company, "know that your time will come. And when that time comes, you will be ready."

There are currently 66 Soldiers in the company but Sanders is expecting to be at full strength come deployment time at approximately 170 Soldiers.

"As your unit grows in personnel and equipment, know that you are not alone and that the battalion staff stands ever ready to assist in every endeavor," Martin said.

Self-assessment helps holiday blues, offers military Families anxiety ally

Special to the Frontline

For millions of Families, the holidays are the perfect time to embrace new and old traditions, and reconnect with relatives and friends.

Military Families, however, face unique challenges during the season, especially when a loved one is away.

Dealing with deployment can be difficult during the holidays. When everyone else seems to be talking about giving thanks and counting blessings, many servicemembers and their Families end up feeling lonely, angry and sad. While they are proud of their service to the country, military Families also deal with unique financial and emotional challenges. Often, the pressure to have the "perfect" holiday can aggravate anxiety and cause stress.

This holiday season, take advantage of the free, anonymous, online and telephone mental health self assessments available year-round for military personnel and their Families. The self-assessment contains a series of questions that, when linked together, help create a picture of how an individual is feeling and whether they could benefit from talking to a health professional. Once the self-assessment is completed, the individual receives information on how to get help including services provided through the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs. The program, funded by the DoD, is available to Families in all branches, including the National Guard and Reserve.

Questions included in the online self-assessment are:

- Have you lost pleasure in things you used to

enjoy?

- Do you have trouble sleeping or eating?
- Does your mood fluctuate between overly "high" to sad and hopeless?
- Are you keyed up and anxious all the time?
- Are you having nightmares about something that happened in the past?
- Do you suffer from unexplained aches and pains?

This holiday season, take care of your Family by taking stock of your emotions and seeking help if life is especially stressful.

The self-assessment is the first step to caring for those you love by helping yourself.

To access the anonymous program, visit www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org or call-877-877-3647.

About the Mental Health Self-Assessment Program is offered to more than 1.5 million military Families affected by deployment in all branches, including the National Guard and Reserve.

It is designed to help Families and service personnel identify their own symptoms and access assistance before a problem becomes serious.

The tests available address depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder and alcohol use.

After an individual completes a self-assessment, the person is provided with referral information including services provided through the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

The program, part of DoD continuum of care, is fully funded by Force Health Protection and Readiness, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs.

PASS

From Page 1A

A private vehicle without a DoD decal can approach any of the above gates using the specially marked lanes for non-decaled vehicles. Everyone in the vehicle—to include DoD identification card holders—must present valid photo identification (i.e. a state driver's license) to access control personnel while remaining in the vehicle.

Also, individuals accessing the installation must give access control personnel their destination, the purpose of their visit, and any other information determined to be necessary. In most

cases, a temporary vehicle pass valid for that day will be issued. In some cases, individuals not affiliated with the installation who are traveling in a vehicle without a DoD decal or temporary pass will be denied access. Reasons include not having a valid reason to be on the installation or not having a destination on the installation.

Temporary vehicle passes will be honored during re-entry of the installation as long as they have not expired. Access control personnel will advise drivers on how to get a temporary pass valid for more than one day if needed.

This procedural change does not impact current commercial vehicle access procedures at Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield. Commercial vehicles are still required to use Gate 7 at Fort Stewart, and Montgomery Gate at Hunter Army Airfield.

Access control procedure questions should be directed to the Directorate of Emergency Services at des.feedback@stewart.army.mil.

All media queries should be directed to kevin.larson@stewart.army.mil for Fort Stewart or steven.hart@stewart.army.mil for Hunter Army Airfield.

PHONE

From Page 1A

The call boxes are placed at intervals of two to two and a half miles providing only a short walk in either direction to summon help.

When a call box phone receiver is lifted, the phone will automatically dial the Fort Stewart 911 center so that emergency services can be dispatched to the location needed.

The installation of the additional call boxes was completed Nov. 1, and the new signage was complete Nov. 15.

Even though you may never have to use one of the call boxes, we hope they will provide peace of mind as

you travel along the Fort Stewart highways.

In addition to the call boxes, the Fort Stewart Communication Sustainability Working Group is reviewing the commercial vendor use of the current cell phone towers on Fort Stewart and the possibility of adding additional towers along the post highways.

According to Mike Flatt, Chief of DOIM Communications Branch, "the flight path of military helicopters and the safety of pilots and crew members must be taken into consideration when placing additional towers. Communications is vital but personnel maneuver safety is our first concern."

CYS

From Page 1A

Additional services includes, evenings, emergency child care in Family Child Care homes on- and off-post; free sports and CYS activity participation at no cost for the teens (13-18 year old) at the Youth Center. Activities include field trips, teen lock-ins, etc.

Also, free instructional and enrichment classes are available for ages three to 18 years old, according to Boiza, with four classes free up to eight weeks at no cost. Includes, but not limited to drama, art, tae

kwon do, gymnastics, etc.

"We are committed to provide the highest standard services to all children with the goal of providing peace of mind and time to the parents in need", said Dagmar Peguero-Olinger, CYS Division Chief.

For more information, about services available at CYS, call Dagmar Peguero-Olinger, Child and Youth Services coordinator or Maria Boiza, program operations specialist at 767-6071 or 767-3098.

Victory Chapel Multi-Cultural Gospel Service

Cordially invite you, your Family, and friends
11 a.m. Dec. 2
to our first worship service in the new
Main Post Chapel.
Local church choirs are invited to participate.
Please join us in our celebration!

For more information, call Tanisha Wells at 767-7028

Christmas Production 2007
"Christmas In Iraq"
A Stage Play
December 15
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Woodruff Theater
Point of Contact: Oneeka Ware at 912-876-7977
Chap. (Maj.) Johnson at 767-7028

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Concert
4:00 pm
December 16, 2007

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Hinesville, Georgia
320 East Washington Avenue • (912) 876-3670



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Corporal Brian Hinojosa, Battery B, 1/9th FA, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., examines mortar rounds found in a farm house in Mahdiryia, Nov. 17.

1/9 FA locates half-ton cache

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – U.S. troops uncovered and destroyed a cache of seven pressure plates Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 in the area of Mahdiryia. The plates are used to detonate a form of improvised explosive device that is specifically targeted against Coalition and Iraqi troops on foot patrol.

The cache find was the first indication of these “dis-mounted” IEDs being used in the area of Mahdiryia. They are already heavily used by al-Qaeda in the communities of Hawr Rajab and Arab Jabour to the north.

Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga., were led to the weapons cache by a member of the Concerned Local Citizens in the

vicinity of Patrol Base W-1.

The commander of Battery B, 1-9th FA Regt. said this is the first time he’s seen this type of IED, one specifically designed to target foot patrols.

“We haven’t had any sign of dismounted IEDs,” Capt. Dave Underwood, from Harrison, Ark., said. “But I knew I’d see them soon.”

The cache was hidden outside a small farm house. In addition to the pressure plates, it consisted of a dozen 120 mm mortars, one 82 mm mortar, a 60 mm mortar system with firing tube and base plate, a bag of mortar fins, and a DSHKA high-caliber machine gun.

Getting the IED-making material out of an area known for insurgent activity made the mission a success, said the Soldiers of Battery B.

“IEDs are the biggest killers in Iraq,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Satterwhite, a Glenville, Ga. native. Getting the

pressure plates was the best part of the find, he said.

“You took over a thousand pounds of weapons out of the hands of al-Qaeda,” 1st Lt. Blake Faller, from Long Island, N.Y., told his platoon after the mission.

Two other caches were discovered by U.S. Soldiers on Nov. 16 with the assistance of Concerned Local Citizens.

The first consisted of one rocket propelled grenade round. It was found by Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

The second included five 60 mm mortars and one 155 mm artillery round. It was located by Paratroopers of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) 25th Infantry Division, out of Fort Richardson, Alaska.

The munitions found in all caches were destroyed in controlled detonations by explosive ordnance disposal teams.

2nd Brigade Soldiers experience a ‘Taste of Iraq’

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – For the past six months Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have been living in Iraq, observing the local culture and interacting with the Iraqi people.

Thanks to the generosity of one Iraqi family, several Soldiers tasted a piece of Iraq for the first time Nov. 4.

Dr. Oday Abbas, a local doctor and business man in the area, served a feast to show goodwill toward the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers who are working hard to help bring prosperity to Iraq.

"We want to show the Americans our hospitality. They support us, help us, so we want to show the generosity of our people," Abbas said.

The meal, which consisted of roast lamb on rice, baked bread, stuffed vegetables, chicken kabob, fish and local fruits and vegetables took Abbas' sisters two days to pre-prepare.

For several Soldiers at the luncheon, it was the first time they tasted Iraqi dishes.

Two of the Soldiers dining on the local cuisine for the first time were 1st Lt. Crystal Little, human intelligence officer, 2nd BCT, and Capt. James Harvey, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Troop Battalion, plans and operations officer.

"It's excellent," Harvey said, describing the dishes. "Its exotic food you can't find in the DFAC (dining facility)."

Some of the exotic flavors were a bit much for Little, who said she preferred to stay with the "safer" choice of the bread and lamb.

"I like the bread and the lamb is good," said Little.

The food also allowed the groups to communicate with one another. By seeing and tasting the food, Soldiers got a view into an Iraqi's life.

"You gain a better understanding of everyday life of an Iraqi," Harvey.

"This is one reason to join the service," said Bruce Bailey, United States Agency for International Development.

Bailey, a Vietnam veteran, said it is important for Soldiers to experience the culture of the countries they visit to get a better understanding of where they are.

"I might not ever get the opportunity to do this again," Little said.

At the end of the meal, everyone thanked the Abbas family for their generosity and kindness.

"I really appreciate our host's hospitality," Harvey said.

Although security concerns often keep events like this happening, Bailey added that one day he hopes that things will evolve here to a point that anyone can come to Iraq and get a "taste" of the culture.



Courtesy Photo

Capt. James Harvey, 2/3 BTB, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., plans and operations officer, loads his plate full of food, Nov. 4.

Seven extremists captured in night raid

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Scouts from the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment's Time Sensitive Target platoon, arrested seven extremists during a night raid near Jisr Diyala Nov. 8.

The team cleared four buildings looking for the extremists. At the last building, the Soldiers burst into a room while the suspected insurgents were conducting a meeting.

Leaders from the 3/1st Cav. Regt. considered one of the

detainees a high-value individual due to his leadership position in a local extremist cell.

In addition to the arrests, the scouts seized a pistol, improvised explosive device-making materials and several cell phones. Cell phones are commonly used as detonation devices for IEDs.

Second Lt. John Lorme, the platoon leader of the TST, explained that the insurgents are involved with sniper training and black market gasoline sales.

Lorme further elaborated that the cell is suspected of using illegal gasoline sales to finance extremist activity.

Lorme said the detentions are helping to decrease vio-

lence in Jisr Diyala and contribute to an increasing sense of stability in the area.

“We got into a six-hour firefight here in July, but it’s nothing close to that now,” Lorme said.

“The store and shop owners are always glad to see us now.”

Despite the small size of his platoon, Lorme is happy with the work they have done in Jisr Diyala thus far.

“We’ve totally cleared out this [area of operation],” he said.

“We’ve done so much with the small amount of people we have in this platoon. I am really proud of my Soldiers.”

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Support Wreaths for Warrior’s Walk

Please help support our goal to place a wreath at every tree along Warriors Walk during the holidays To sponsor a wreath, check out the Wreaths for Warriors Walk Web site, www.geocities.com/wreaths4warriorwalk. The ceremony is scheduled for noon, Dec. 15 at Warriors Walk.

Medical Appointment Transport available

If you need transportation for medical and dental appointments from Tuttle Clinic to Fort Stewart call the Hunter TMP at 315-5865 or 320-5888. Call no later than 3 p.m. the day before your appointment and provide your name, appointment time and location, special requirements, number of passengers, including ages of children. Call the Hunter TMP for additional information.

Donate to the Bicycle Recycling Drive

If you would like to donate a bike that has suffered from neglect, gently used, or no longer desired – now is the time to make a difference and keep bikes out of the landfills!

The Directorate of Public Works, environmental division encourages community members to help in the installation bicycle recycling drive ongoing now through Dec. 14.

Donated bikes will be recycled directly back into our community. Bike or bike parts having very little value as bicycles, will be stripped of all recycled parts and disposed of appropriately. For more information about the bicycle recycling drive, please contact DPW - Waste Management Section at 767-8880.

Stewart

Tank Trail 40 fuel pumps closed Nov 27-28

The fuel contractor will be doing some repairs to the gasoline pumps at the Fort Stewart fuel facility located on Tank Trail 40. This requires the gasoline pumps to be taken out of service for 24 hours starting 8 a.m., Nov. 27. Activities need to obtain fuel prior to scheduled outage. For more information, call Clyde Lynn at 435-0146.

Club Stewart holds teen night

Rockets at Club Stewart will be closed to Soldiers and open to Family members (ages 13 to 17) with Military ID from 7 to 11 p.m., Nov. 24. All teens will be checked for ID and wrist banded. The military ID holder may bring one guest. A variety of music will be played by a DJ. Chips, soda and energy drinks will be for sale. Other activities include a pool table, foosball and big screen TV in the Headlights Room. Extra facility staff will be present and conduct codes will be strictly enforced. There will be a \$5 cover charge. For more information, call 368-2212.

Street sweeping schedule

The Directorate of Public Works in an effort to reduce litter and accumulating sand on roadways, parking lots and hardstand, will step up weekly street sweeping operations on the following days and areas: *Monday*, the post-exchange, commissary, and Marne Club; *Tuesday*, the shopettes, building 100, and Gate 1; *Wednesday*, 6th street, Frank Cochran, Wilson Ave.; *Thursday*, Gate 5, Gate 7, 15th Street; and *Friday*, Cottrell Field, building 253, Newman Fitness Center. Operations will begin at 7:30 a.m. on referenced days and will continue until scheduled sweeping is complete for that area. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution in these areas when approaching the street sweeper.

PWOC meets each Thursday

Classes are available for children, ages three and older, including adult Bible study and RCIA classes, held Sundays, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. in the Religious Ed Building. Call Pam Perez at 315-5440 for additional information. Protestant Women of the Chapel meets each Thursday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the

Fellowship Hall. The group will read “Power of a Positive Woman.” For information, call Valarie Moore, 920- 8519.

Shop of the Marne extends hours

The Shop of the Marne will be open extended hours during the month of December to help you with your gift giving for the holiday season. On Dec. 1, the Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays the shop will also be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. New merchandise is arriving so stop by building 25 off McNeely Road, behind the PX and check it out! For more information, call the Shop at 767-9268.

OSC Tour of Homes scheduled

This event will feature 11 Fort Stewart homes decked out for the holidays during the Holiday Tour of Homes, Dec. 9, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at the Shop of the Marne. The tour will begin with check-in and map pick-up at the Shop of the Marne and will conclude with a reception on Audie Murphy Way. Military I.D. cardholders and their guests are invited to purchase tickets for \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Sorry, no children allowed.

OSC December luncheon slated

Please join the Officers’ Spouses’ Club as we celebrate the holiday with the pursuit of holiday cheer Dec. 13 at Club Stewart. Shopping begins at 11 a.m. followed by a fabulous meal for \$11. Come ready for fun as we auction off many ‘themed’ trees and wreaths. On-site child care is available by reservation for those children registered with CYS, please call Anne at 369-0663. Please make your reservation before Dec. 10. Last name beginning with A-L please contact Paige Adgie, 877-2626 and last names beginning with M-Z please contact Jill Peterson, 492-8444.

Scholarship deadline near

The Fort Stewart Military Family Membership Scholarship Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under the auspices of The Officers’ Spouses’ Club that awards merit-based scholarships for deserving eligible Family members of all active, retired or deceased military of the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield communities. Applications for these scholarships will be available beginning Dec. 3 at local high schools, ACS and the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center.

Hunter

DFAC offers Thanksgiving special

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served at Hunter’s Aviation Dining Facility, today. A traditional Thanksgiving meal will be served during lunch and dinner hours. Breakfast hours are 7 to 8 a.m.; lunch hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner is served 5 to 6 p.m.

Scholarships for military children begins

The Defense Commissary Agency’s 2008 scholarhsip for military children is now accepting applications.

The applications are available at the commissaries worldwide and at www.commissaries.com or www.militaryscholar.org. The packets must be turned in to a commissary by Feb. 20 and include an essay (requirements outlined in application). The program is open to unmarried children under age 21 (23 if in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. For more, go to www.commissaries.com.

Come to movie afternoon for Hunter Youth

Hunter Middle and High School Youth are invited to attend a movie the first Saturday of each month in the Post Theater (located by ACS) to enjoy a movie, popcorn and Kool-Aid. The first movie, "Keela and the Beast," is about a young girl from the ghetto whose life changes after she wins a spelling bee. Rated PG-13, the movie is scheduled Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. For addi-

tional information contact Charles Archer at 412-2913.

Savannah River Bridge Run

Register now for the Enmark Savannah Bridge Run, Dec. 1. Races include a 5K run/walk; a 10K run, a double-pump race, the Critz BMW 10K Team Challenge; a Costume Contest and a kids run. For information, call 921-1040, or go online at www.savannahriverbridgerun.com.

Hunter Pot of Gold Ceremony slated

A Pot of Gold ceremony is scheduled 11:30 a.m., Dec. 5 at Hunter Club. For additional information call 315-2691.

Join GC Golf Scramble

Sign up now for the Hunter Garrison Commander’s Golf Scramble, 8 a.m. Dec. 7, at Hunter Golf Course. Call 315-9115 for information or to sign up.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony slated

Don’t miss the Hunter Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:15 p.m., Dec. 10, at Hunter Club. Call 315-2691 for additional information.

Annual Christmas Dance scheduled

The American Legion Post 135 Ladies Auxiliary will host a dance at 8 p.m., Dec. 8, at 1108 Bull Street. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Music is by Night Rhythm. For advance tickets and information, call 748-0320 or 233-9277.



Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield invites community members to help bring a smile to a child's face this holiday season through Toys for Tots. Donate a new, unwrapped toy in one of the many available drop off boxes through Dec. 15. Drop boxes are at the education centers, post exchanges, commissaries, and other buldings around post.



Stewart

Help with GMH care and food drive

Help others in need to have a happy Thanksgiving.

Drop off non-perishable items at your nearest GMH Community Center.

If you donate five items or more you qualify to enter a drawing for a \$50 WalMart gift card to help with your own last minute Thanksgiving items. The

event runs through Friday.

Have fun at Twister Mania

Right hand on red! It's your favorite party game that tests your balance and flexibility. With several twister matches going on simultaneously, we'll find out who are the last ones standing and the true champions! The event is 3 to 4 p.m., Nov. 29 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Join the huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live.

Event dates are Nov. 26 for Southern Oaks; and Nov. 30 for Coastal Ridge. The time for each event is 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the following locations: Bryan Village South at the playground across from Bryan Elementary; Isenhower Terrace, at the ball field between Subic and Ramblon; Isenhower Village at the playground at the corner of Hero and Liberty; Liberty woods at the playground behind 161 Amberwood; at the Southern Oaks Community Center for Southern Oaks; and the playground on Forest and West 8th St. for Coastal Ridge.

Concerned Local Citizens remove insurgents, resources



Courtesy photo

A cache consisting of 200 DSHKA heavy machine gun rounds, two gas masks, three former regime Iraqi army uniforms, five former regime Iraqi army flak vests, a notebook, two rolls of command wire, a 57 mm projectile, half a stick of dynamite and one roll of detonation cord was discovered by Concerned Local Citizens in Arab Jabour, Nov. 8.

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU – Concerned Local Citizens played a key role in three incidents removing insurgents and their resources from the Hawr Rajab and Arab Jabour regions, Nov. 8.

In Arab Jabour, concerned citizens brought a large cache to Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducting operations in the area.

The cache consisted of 200 DSHKA heavy machine gun rounds, two gas masks, three former regime Iraqi army uniforms, five former regime Iraqi army flak vests, a notebook, two rolls of command wire, a 57 mm projectile, half a stick of dynamite and one roll of detonation cord.

The rounds, dynamite, projectile, detonation cord and command wire were destroyed in a controlled detonation. The other contents of the cache were collected and taken

in for further examination.

“This shows that the concerned citizens are doing what they can to safely secure their neighborhood,” said Capt. William Lyles, 1/30th Inf. Regt. Battle Captain. Lyles added that the citizens are doing a good job of turning in items insurgents would use.

In Hawr Rajab, Concerned Local Citizens turned in a 57 mm mortar round to Paratroopers of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT (Airborne), 25th Inf. Div., Fort Richardson, Alaska, at Enduring Control Point 20.

The round was destroyed in a controlled detonation.

Also in Hawr Rajab, soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division detained three individuals. The three men were identified by Concerned Local Citizens as al-Qaeda members and known improvised explosive device emplacements. The men were detained along with 12 magazines with approximately 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

The men are being held for questioning.

Hawr Rajab City Council meets 2nd BCT reconstruction team

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU – “We need you and your wisdom. You know how businesses work. You know what your family needs,” the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team leader told the sheiks of the Hawr Rajab City Council. “We need you to teach us ways to do it so we can help.”

John Smith, the ePRT team leader, and Coalition Forces met with the sheiks in Hawr Rajab Oct. 31 to discuss the changes taking place there.

Such cooperation is vital, Smith said, because success depends on all parties banding together and sharing knowledge.

Working together with the council, Smith and Ferrell said new businesses can grow, revitalizing the local economy.

Smith, a small farm owner, said his heart is with the farmers and he will work to support the people of Hawr Rajab.

Several projects targeting the main needs of the community, roads, water and electricity are already underway. Road repairs, bridge construction, and water and sewer pipe repair are providing jobs for many of the locals.

Lt. Col. David Kennedy, commander, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and ePRT deputy team leader, also said that electrical projects are also being conducted in the area.

According to Kennedy, 2500 meters of electrical distribution lines will be laid, three ground transformers will be repaired, 140 street lights will be replaced, and 30 solar power lights will be installed.

“It will make the area safer, a more secure environment for people to move at night and feel safe,” he explained.

Although some contractors hired to perform these jobs are from out of the area, 90 percent of the workers are local hires, Kennedy said.

The next step for expanding security provided by the concerned citizens was also discussed at the meeting.

Sheik Mahir al-Muini and Brig. Gen. Ahmed Al-Dulaymi, Concerned Local Citizens commander, asked Ferrell for assistance in creating better communication between the concerned citizens and their IA allies.

The two also asked to have the concerned citizens training program moved into Hawr Rajab so that more citizens

can be trained. Currently, the training is conducted at Forward Operating Base Falcon, which they said causes problems for volunteers without transportation.

The requests come at a vital time, as security operations are currently being planned into adjacent neighborhoods such as Adwaniyah, where insurgents have fled due to improved security in Hawr Rajab.

While Ferrell was pleased at the progress made by the concerned citizens in securing their neighborhoods, he cautioned them about moving too fast.

“We can't overstretch, gain too many places too fast. We need to make sure an area is strong before we go to a new area,” he said.

Ferrell explained it is important to maintain a presence, shifting forces to areas of threat, rather than shifting all assets into a new area.

“We need to maintain a presence. We have security and we need to take advantage of what we have before we move forward again,” Ferrell said.

As security continues to improve, Ferrell added, more energy and resources can be allocated to Smith's work. In the meantime, Smith said the initial phases of reconstruction can begin.

“Now it is time to get the people back and stores open so families can go on living their day-to-day lives,” Ferrell said. “Let's show the people who live here, and want to live here, that we can make progress.”

The next step in creating that progress is to help empower the council and get them to work and communicate with the directors in the Iraqi central government.

“It is not about us, it is about the Iraqi government,” Kennedy said. “We need to convince the Iraqi government to work for them.”

Some progress has been made on this end, Kennedy said, noting that many of the electricity based projects are being coordinated through the Rashid Department of Electricity.



Courtesy Photo

John Smith, team leader, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, (center) and Lt. Col. David Kennedy, commander, 2/3 BTB, 2nd BCT and ePRT deputy team leader (right) talk with Sheik Abu Abbas, Hawr Rajab city council member. Smith and his team met with the sheiks comprising the Hawr Rajab city council at the Hawr Rajab City Council Headquarters, Oct. 31.

Education Matters

Distance learning college term dates announced

Enrollment is starting for the next college term. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information. **Central Texas College** – The next term runs Jan. 7 through March 1. For more information at Stewart, call 767-2070, 315-4090 at Hunter. **Columbia College** – The next term is Jan. 14 to March 8. For more information at Stewart, call 767-5336 or 352-8635 at Hunter; **Embry Riddle** – The next term is Jan. 14 to March 8. For more information at Stewart, call 767-3930, or 352-5252 at Hunter; **Savannah Tech** – the next term is Jan. 4 to March 6. For more information, call 408-2430.; **Webster University** – The next term is Jan. 7 to March 6. For more information, call 767-5357 at Stewart, or 354-0033 at Hunter.

Vie for Purple Heart Scholarship opportunities

Learn about scholarship opportunities for Purple Heart recipients, visit www.purpleheart.org or scholarship@purpleheart.org.

Take an educational coffee break

A professional counselor will discuss setting and achieving educational goals, the local Army Education programs and available funding options for active duty, Family members and Department of the Army civilians. Maximize your potential as you are affected by Army mobility requirements. Army education counselors are available Monday through Friday for individual sessions. These briefings are generally the first Tuesday of each month at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, Building 100. Call 767-8331 for more information.

Learn about available federal scholarships

Learn about the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Scholarship at www.feea.org/scholarships.html or call 1-303-933-7580.

Webster offers deployed reduced online tuition

Soldiers enrolled in Webster's graduate classes will receive a reduced rate, while deployed. Contact Marsha Sands at sands@webster.edu, or 354-0033, DSN: 315-5906 for additional information.

Apply for the Georgia HOPE grant

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial need to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's

financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center to speak with a counselor.

HOPE Grant - great opportunity for spouses

Educate while you wait! Get your certificate or diploma and pursue your new career during this deployment. Certificates for Web site technician, child care manager, and medical transcription are a few of the eligible programs offered by Savannah Technical College. Classes are available in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center and at the Liberty Campus on Airport Road in Hinesville. For more information, call Savannah Tech in the SFC Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 408-2430, or the Liberty Campus at 408-3024.

Take CLEP and DANTES classes

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel and for non-military examinees, CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90.

Free English-as-a-second-language courses

Beginning courses are offered 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Thursday. Intermediate courses are offered 8 a.m. to noon Monday and Wednesday. ESL class registration begins noon every Tuesday, at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100, room 227. For more information call 368-7322.

Take GED and skills enrichment courses

Graduation Equivalency Diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Liberty County Adult Education Program at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. The courses prepare you to take the GED Exam or refresh your skills. The courses are free of charge. You can select from one of a number of dates and times, which are 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in rooms 225 - 228. For more information, call 368-7322. To register for the classes, you must be present for both days of the process. Registration is first come, first serve. Active duty military are registered upon request. Call 368-7322 for complete details.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green to Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m. the first and third Thursday. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Children's scholarship handbook offered

The Military Children's Scholarship Handbook, Getting Uncle Sam to Pay for Your College Degree is available at www.militaryhandbooks.com.

Learning center provides computer resources

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center's learning center has 55 computers with Internet access available. You

can use the center to complete your homework, research for your classes, access the Army's basic skills automated program, "Lifetime Library" or just stop in to check your e-mail.

The center is open seven days a week. It is closed on federal holidays. The learning center is room 230, building 100. The hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The Hunter learning center is open 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Take advantage of a variety of study resources and Internet capability. For more information, call 315-6130.

Troops-, Spouse-to-Teachers briefings slated

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouse-to-Teachers Program, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600. Future meetings are scheduled for Dec. 19 at the Sgt 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For more information, visit online at www.ttga.net and www.sttga.net or call 1-800-745-0709 or 767-8331.

Free college course offered

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for an initial classroom course with Columbia College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center for spouses of military personnel enrolled in their school. This is a value of \$450, which is the cost of their three credit-hour classroom courses. The program is an incentive for eligible students to embark on a degree program, while completing the financial aid process. Call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter for more information.

\$4500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, during a one-hour brief at the Education Center, room 223.

Savannah Tech offers child care

Child care is available at the Airport Road Hinesville campus. Contact Natasha Brown at 408-3024 ext 6026 for more details.

Free college tutoring offered through Dec 13

Savannah Technical College, at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, is offering free tutoring for college students each Monday and Wednesday. You don't have to be enrolled in Savannah Tech to participate. Please call 408-2430.

CTC has added degree programs

Two new associate degrees will be introduced: Information Technology A.A.S and Legal Assistant/Paralegal A.A.S. Also courses leading to certificate for Information Center Specialist are being offered. Go to www.ctcd.edu for course descriptions. For more information, call 767-2070 or 315-4090.



Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-appropriated funds- Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Entry for management level jobs?

The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

- Child and Youth program assistant,** \$10.09-\$12.36 per hour
- Recreation Aid, \$5.85** - \$7 per-hour
- Operations Assistant,** \$5.85-\$8 per-hour
- Cook,** \$8.70 per-hour
- Hotel desk clerk,** \$7-\$7.50 per-hour
- Cashier,** \$8 per-hour
- Custodial worker,** \$7.72 per-hour
- Waiter (Trainee),** \$7.17 - \$8.17 Per-hour
- Food Service Worker,** \$7.17 Per-hour

In addition to the above continuous vacancies, NAF offers mid-level and management level career opportunities in Child and Youth Services, recreation, lodging/hospitality management, business operations, financial management, information technology, marketing, and support services.

To search for these types of positions go to cpol.army.mil. click on Employment, click on Search for Jobs, at the bottom of the page under Search-Announcement type in SCNAFDW% then click on "Get Announcement" or hit the enter key. This will narrow your search to the Stewart-Hunter NAF vacancies. Instructions on how to apply are on each announcement. Additional NAF vacancy announcements currently posted on the CPOL Web site:

Recreation assistant, (physical fitness), \$12 per-hour, Fort Stewart; **Recreation assistant** (physical fitness), \$12 per-hour, Hunter; **Recreation assistant,** (lifeguard/pool operator), \$11 per hour, Hunter

Fitness Center Assistants wanted

Experienced individuals needed to independently carry out a physical fitness pro-

gram at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Gymnasiums. Certification as a fitness or Personal Trainer is a must. Starts at \$12 per hour. For more information, call the NAF division at 767-5051.

Did you know?

- You don't have to be a US Citizen to be employed by NAF
- Hiring preference for eligible military spouses can be used multiple times for employment in "flexible" status positions. You do not lose eligibility until you are placed in a regular full or part-time position (NAF or Appropriated Funds).
- There is a hiring preference in NAF for involuntarily separated military members and their eligible Family members.
- Current NAF employees who have worked one continuous year in a position without time limits are eligible to be considered for Civil Service (GS/WG) jobs the same as APF employees who transfer to Army (under the Department of Defense/Office of Professional Management interchange agreement).
- Youth at least 16 years of age can be

employed year round in certain NAF positions where conditions and duties meet all criteria of Federal and state child labor laws.

- NAF offers a Management Trainee Program that is targeted to annually hire up to 20 recent college graduates who have bachelor's degrees in certain MWR specialties. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and will be used to fill Management Trainee Program vacancies as necessary. Go to www.armymwr.biz and click on Programs for more information.
- Eligible employees who move between DOD NAF and APF positions can "port" certain benefits such as retirement, leave, etc.

Need counseling/resume help?

Contact Army Community Service employment readiness at 767-1297. For further information on employment opportunities contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, job information center at 767-5051.

Our office is located on the 2nd floor (room 2013A) of building 253, Sgt. Audie Murphy Soldier Support Center, 55 Pony Soldier Avenue. The hours of operation are 8 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

DES Spotlight DES rekindles fire safety

Christmas trees

When choosing a live Christmas tree, buy a fresh tree. Never buy a bundled tree. Do a bump test – run your hands down the limbs to see if the needles fall off. Bend the needles, they should bend back. After bringing your tree home, make a fresh diagonal cut one to two inches from the base.

Add two aspirin to the water every three days to keep your tree fresh and fire resistant. You may also dissolve one cup of sugar to one gallon of water. Always keep your tree stand full of water and away from heat sources.

Christmas lights

Do not mix and match Christmas lights. All lights should be of the same type and size. Check the light bulbs, sockets, wires and plugs for cracks, broken or frayed wires. Replace any broken, frayed or missing parts. Never bypass a fuse. Test each strand by plugging it for 10-15 minutes to make sure the lights don't melt or smoke. Always use a power strip or surge protector to plug your lights into. Do not connect more than three strands to one power strip. Do not overload electrical outlets by using adapters. Never run electrical cords under carpet or rugs or through metal

windows or doors. Always unplug all decorations inside and out before leaving home or going to bed.

Decorations

Choose decorations and ornaments that are non-toxic, especially if you have small children or pets. Avoid using metal garland or synthetic compounds that may conduct electricity. Use only UL listed decorations – the green UL tag is suitable only for indoor use; the red UL tag may be used indoors or out.

Ladders

Use the appropriate ladder when putting up decorations. Make sure that is placed on solid ground and have someone secure it or tie it to the structure. Watch for overhead obstructions and power lines. Wear shoes with slip-resistant soles and only one person on the ladder at a time. Always face the ladder when ascending or descending. Do not stand on the top 4 rungs of an extension ladder or top two rungs of a step ladder. Have someone remain outside with you while you are on the ladder.

Open flame hazards

Keep your fireplace area free of com-

bustibles and always use a fire screen/ Keep your chimney flu clean and have a professional inspect it annually.

Do not burn wrapping materials in a fireplace. Use kindling and wooden matches to light a fire, not flammable liquid. Keep candles, yule logs, menorahs, etc. high up on a non-combustible surface that is away from curtains or draperies. Ensure that your fire is completely out before going to bed. Never place lit candles on a tree or other combustible decorations.

Remember to warn children about the dangers of matches, candles and any other type of open flame. Make sure that you have UL approved carbon monoxide detectors in your home if you have a gas fireplace, woodstove or furnace.

Smoke detectors, extinguishers

Test all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors at least monthly, if not weekly. Replace the batteries annually. Keep a 2.5-pound ABC fire extinguisher on hand. Ensure that it is maintained and everyone in the household knows how to use it. Think about giving carbon monoxide/smoke detectors or fire extinguishers as a more practical gift. If you do give them as gifts, offer to place and mount them in the proper locations.

Introducing Sgt Derek Thomas Atwood

Special to the Frontline

Sgt. Derek Thomas Atwood was born and raised in Alton, New Hampshire, a small town, just 30 minutes northeast of Concord. In high-school, he worked at Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, Tire Warehouse, was a volunteer fireman, a police explorer, and a camp counselor.

His enlistment in the Army came easy to Derek because he wanted to live the life of fun, travel, and adventure. Atwood's first assignment out of military police training had a hidden bonus when he accompanied a friend to Dragon Hill Lodge in Yongsan, South Korea. While there, a mutual friend introduced him to Sara Rivers, a fellow military police officer. Even though they were geographically separated in



Sgt. Derek Thomas Atwood

outlying camps, they became good friends, and both found themselves stationed at Fort Stewart.

In his professional life, Atwood has excelled and far exceeded the expectations of his superiors. Currently, Atwood is working as the Traffic Management and Accident Investigations noncommissioned officer in charge for the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Atwood is the kind of leader that brings out the best in everyone around him.

Top leaders discuss future of security

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FOB Kalsu – Months ago, the government of Iraq said it would begin providing services to Hawr Rajab residents as soon as security was established — the time is now.

Task Force Marne leaders Brig. Gen. Jim Huggins, Multi-National Division - Center, deputy commander for maneuver, and Col. Terry Ferrell, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, visited the small town Nov. 5 to discuss the next steps in reconstruction.

They met with representatives from the GoI, British Maj. Gen. Bruce Brealey, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, deputy commander, and Lt. Gen. Abud, Iraqi corps-level commander.

Local leaders say the town is ready now; GoI representatives agree, their presence a testimony to safety in the area.

The day's talks covered tactical and strategic Iraqi army plans, and current and future roles of the Concerned Local Citizens in Hawr Rajab.

"This area was a safe haven to the insurgency and terrorists; they displaced the families living in the area," Abud said. "Our operation here was very successful and Coalition Forces were very cooperative."

Capt. Beau Giles, the military transition

team effects coordinator for the 5th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, said they are able to conduct operations fairly independently.

Giles said having the IA work closely with the CLCs, along with overwatch by the U.S. Army, is essential for continued progress. He said the local residents can see their own army and neighbors fighting to rid the area of terrorists.

"Having an Iraqi face on these operations is a key to the success of the counterinsurgency," Giles said. "(The people) are seeing an element of their government working."

The Hawr Rajab Council members were concerned about a number of things in their town. Sheik Ali and Sheik Maher discussed their most pressing needs, including getting electricity 24 hours a day, rather than five to six hours. Maher wants more schools built in the area, a doctor for their medical center and an Iraqi police station.

In the meantime, business owners are returning and shops are opening for business once again. Both the boys' and girls' schools are in session, and the town's gas station is open a few hours a week.

Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., commander, said the IA would continue to receive full support from his Soldiers in making Hawr Rajab a successful, safe city as long as he's in Iraq.



Courtesy Photo

Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., commander, walks with British Maj. Gen. Bruce Brealey, MNC-I deputy commander, into Entry Control Point 20, a patrol base in Hawr Rajab, Nov. 5.

Coalition partners meet at FOB Hammer

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Leaders from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, the national police and the Iraqi army met to coordinate their efforts in

Mada'in Qada at FOB Hammer Nov. 14.

The leaders discussed operational successes during the past two weeks and focused on streamlining the operations of the three joint security sites in the qada, helping displaced families regain their homes and planning joint operations to disrupt insurgent cells working in the Mada'in Qada.

"We've made some great gains over the last eight weeks but, more importantly, we've made some great friends," said Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., commander, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division. "Friends of honor and friends that have been working side by side with us."

Maj. David Fivecoat, the operations officer of the 3rd HBCT, explained that the murder and attack rates in the qada during the month of October were significantly down from previous months and early indicators in November indicated that the trend was continuing.

Fivecoat outlined the recent success, but explained that Coalition Forces needed better report-

ing from the various joint security sites in the qada. He said leaders needed to improve their cooperation and do a better job of synchronizing their operations.

Col. A'amir, commander of the 1st Brigade, 1st National Police Division, agreed with Fivecoat, but stressed that his brigade was shorthanded and needed help at the moment. He also asked the 3rd HBCT to help communicate with the Iraqi government to get more jobs for local residents.

Amir Turkey Jabbar, the Al Mada'in investigative judge operating in Jisr Diyala, was present to explain his role in the qada and changes he would like to see. He cited security in Salman Pak as one of his chief concerns, but listened as Aamir and Grigsby explained that the area has become more stable, citing recent successful 3rd HBCT and NP operations.

"Rule of law is an important component for the people of this qada," Grigsby said. "A characteristic of a successful nation state isn't just security. The people need to be able to go before judges and have their disputes settled in a civilized manner by rule of law. That is why your presence in the qada is so important."

A'amir believed that the presence of a judge in Salman Pak would do even more to secure the area. He explained that criminals had been able to operate without fear of prosecution. A judge, he said, was crucial in bringing these men to justice and getting them off the streets.

Grigsby ended the meeting on a positive note by inviting everyone back to discuss future operations.

"The great thing is that we are all focusing together to get rid of the bad people operating here so the good people of the Mada'in Qada can prosper," Grigsby said.



Spc. Ben Hutto

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., commander, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., greets Col. Abdul, 2/3rd Bde., 8th Iraqi Army Division, before a meeting with Iraqi security forces and civic leaders of the Mada'in Qada at FOB Hammer, Nov. 14.

Sheik takes steps to create Concerned Local Citizens group

Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Sheik Vin Jan, a key figure in the Vin Jan village, took the first steps toward building a Concerned Local Citizens group in his village Oct. 19.

Capt. John Horning, commander, Company C, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, and 1st Sgt. Angel Cordero, Co. C's first sergeant, visited Vin Jan to discuss the village's security situation and possible plans for establishing a CLC group.

The two parties signed a memorandum of agreement covering the basics of what Horning and his unit expect from the group of more than 100 volunteers.

"Once you tell me and show me that you care about your town, I'll show you that I care too," Horning said.

Horning explained that once the local residents eradicate extremist elements, they can bring in projects to improve essential services in the community.

The CLC program has decreased violence in dozens of communities in the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's area of operation. Citizens in participating villages operate in an organized manner to patrol their communities and weed out insurgent activity. Members of CLC groups use their own resources to keep the program running.

"There are a lot of people here that know about the Concerned Local Citizens program and want the program for their neighborhoods," Horning said.

In the nearby town of Al Hurria, local residents created their own CLC group from the ground up, Horning said. They recruited, compiled background information on all volunteers and set their own standards. Each volunteer was solely employed by his concerned citizen duties.

When the process was complete, the concerned citizens approached Horning wanting to aid Co. C in the fight against insurgents.

Horning and his unit have been working with the group in Al Hurria. Soldiers conduct patrols with the group to show support and help where they are needed.

The accomplishments of the concerned citizens in Al Hurria were noticed by Vin Jan, motivating him to create his own group.

Horning said he has spoken with several villagers from Al Hurria about the program. Many people expressed feeling at ease when they sleep at night now, knowing concerned citizens are patrolling their village.

Horning has high hopes for the newly-formed group in Vin Jan. He believes once security improves, projects focused on essential services and sanitation will light the way to further promote well-being and security.

"It's not without challenges, but things are working here," Horning said.

"When you go into a town enough times and meet the leaders, you get a sense that they are not involved with extremism and just want their kids to go to school. They want to farm their fields and they don't want to be sick. Seeing this makes me want to help them out."



Courtesy Photo

Capt. John Horning, commander, Co. C, 1/15th Inf., shakes hands and poses for a picture with Sheik Vin Jan, a key figure in the Vin Jan village, Oct. 19.

1/15 engages al-Qaeda element, kills one

Special to the Frontline
MND-C Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment engaged an insurgent force with small arms and multiple aerial assets Nov. 6 at Combat Outpost Cahill near Salman Pak, resulting in the death of at least one insurgent.

Soldiers manning guard tower positions on COP Cahill engaged insurgents with small arms fire following a suspected al-Qaeda indirect fire attack on the post. A battalion mortar-crew fired six 60mm mortar rounds and one 120mm mortar round in response, as well.

Lt. Col. Jack Marr, 1/15th Inf. Regt. commander, believes the daytime attack is proof of al-Qaeda’s desperation. He stated an increase in economic alternatives and improvements in essential services that have coincided with his unit’s presence in the area as being “points of pressure” on

the terrorist organization.

“Before our arrival, al-Qaeda enjoyed a certain level of tacit support from the people,” Marr said. “With the help we have provided, with more jobs and restoring essential services, the people are realizing they can stand on their own and separate from these (insurgents).”

Soldiers on COP Cahill reported that two 60mm mortar rounds landed on the outpost and two to three rounds impacted near the outpost shortly thereafter. Both Company A and B Soldiers of 1/15th Inf. Regt. engaged a small enemy element with machine guns and sniper rifles during the initial contact.

Two more mortar rounds impacted outside of the post and the unit retaliated with AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and Air Force A-10 fighters. The four Apache helicopters and two A-10s expended ammunition on enemy positions. Bradley Fighting Vehicles and mortar crews supported this final engagement as well.

Marr believes the attack was conducted by an extremist element, most likely al-Qaeda, looking to “shore-up” support among the populace. He estimates the enemy element was attempting to entice Coalition Forces to overreact or “lash out” at the local population.

“In some ways, this is exactly what we want them to do,” Marr said. “One of the hardest things to do in the counterinsurgency environment is identifying who the bad guy is and who the good guy is. If we force them to separate themselves from the population in the daytime, it’s an easier decision for a Soldier to make. It’s much easier for us to tell friend from foe.”

One unexploded enemy mortar was found outside of COP Cahill. Company E, 1/15th Inf. Regt. Soldiers detonated the explosive in a controlled detonation. Soldiers active in the engagement estimated that they killed four insurgents, but only one body was recovered following the clash.

1/15 aids in opening school in Al Waheda

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Children in Al Waheda received more than pencils and paper on the first day of school - they were given a refurbished school.

“The community continued to educate the children despite not having a place to go,” Sheik Juwad Al Shimmari, the Waheda city council chairman, said through a translator.

“But now we have this beautiful school and we are very grateful to Coalition Forces and the city council for giving us the resources to rebuild.”

Leaders of Company C and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, and the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Knoxville, Tenn., currently attached to the 1/15th Inf. Regt. attended a school opening in Al Waheda Nov. 12.

Al Shimmari held the event. He invited local leaders, leaders of the Al Karrar national police brigade, and 1-15th Inf. Regt. leaders and Soldiers to walk through the newly refurbished school.

According to Maj. Greg Lester, team chief for team 911, 489th CA, the city council made the decision to refurbish the school.

The 1/15th Inf. Regt. was responsible for funding the project and coordinating with local contractors for bids. The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, approved the project.

Local contractors took approximately 90 days to renovate the structure of the school, paint the walls, fix the plumbing and electricity, and install new doors and windows.

“It was not very difficult,” Marmas said. “The school was broken, but we did our best to do what we did. I am very proud.”

Lester is certain the project will prove beneficial for everyone in the community, including the 1/15th Inf. Regt. Soldiers who provide security in the area.

“Refurbishing the school provides jobs for local contractors and laborers,” he said.

“It builds rapport between Coalition Forces and the local community and city council. It gives the community pride to have such a nice school in Al Waheda.”

Besma Mihsin, the wife of a security officer in the community, lives next door to the school and works there as a custodian. She remembers when it was a derelict building.

“I am very impressed with the progress the school has made. I remember what it used to look like,” she said through a translator.

“Now I can see the happiness on the faces of the kids and their families.”

According to Capt. Matthew Givens, civilian project manager, 1/15th Inf. Regt., the school still needs furniture, four more classrooms, and a teachers’ lounge.

Although minor additions are still needed, both Iraqi citizens in the area and leaders from 1-15th Inf. Regt. are pleased with the outcome of the project.

“This new school gives them a chance to build the next generation,” said Spc. Daniel Bell, civil affairs specialist with the 489th CA.

“Every moment after this school opens will provide opportunities to turn things around.”

After the walk-through, Shimmari, Givens, and Lt. Col. Jabbar from the Al Karrar national police, handed out school supplies to the students.

The packets, containing coloring books, crayons, papers, pencils and other school supplies, were donated to the project from friends and Families in Knoxville, Tenn.



Sgt. Natalie Rostek
Sheik Juwad al-Shimmari, Al Waheda city council chairman, gives a prayer before walking through the newly refurbished Al Taybeh elementary school in Al Waheda, Nov. 12 while Soldiers of the 1/15th Inf. look on.

Benning Soldiers provide resources to strengthen CLC checkpoints

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

COMBAT OUTPOST CLEARY, Iraq – Soldiers and leaders of Company C, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, visited Hajji Vinn Jahn, the sheik of Vinn Jahn Village and leader

of the Concerned Local Citizens Group in the area, to coordinate checkpoint improvements and check on their new partners, Nov. 14.

During the meeting, Hajji Vinn Jahn expressed his concern with small arms attacks on his concerned citizens checkpoints. He described instances where insurgents

fired upon his volunteers and then dispersed.

“There is a message the terrorists are giving when they run,” said Capt. Brian Jennings, executive officer of Company C. “They are not strong enough to stand and fight against the concerned citizens.”

After the meeting, Jennings, 1st Lt. Aaron Wilkerson, the fire support officer for the company, and other Company C Soldiers walked to each checkpoint in the village to visit with the concerned citizens that were manning them.

The guards at each checkpoint, dressed in their khaki cargo pants and yellow shirts with the Iraq flag proudly displayed on their sleeves, welcomed the group with smiles and handshakes.

“We visit the checkpoints to ensure all the concerned citizens have the necessary supplies to carry out their mission as the first line of defense for Vinn Jahn Village,” Wilkerson said.

Company C Soldiers unloaded concertina wire, sandbags, and wood for the checkpoints, and Jennings explained more supplies are still to come.

Jennings said the force protection material is to improve the security of each checkpoint.

The unit plans to deliver additional materials such as concrete barriers and towers. These materials will help with the safety of the guards at the checkpoints while allowing the concerned citizens full view of the surrounding areas.

Jennings further explained Company C is working on getting more cold weather attire for the group.

Wilkerson expressed his pride in the Concerned Local Citizens of Vinn Jahn Village. Every time Company C Soldiers visit the checkpoints all members of the Concerned Local Citizens group are in the correct uniform, they carry their weapons properly, and are manning the checkpoints throughout the entire day. He said they abide by all the regulations stipulated in their group contract.

“They contribute to the safety and security of Vinn Jahn Village in two ways; they call us when they witness insurgent activity in their village, and they deny insurgents freedom of maneuver in the village,” Wilkerson said.

“They have a genuine concern for the safety and security of their town and the families they protect. They share the same interest with us in that respect.”



Courtesy Photo
Spc. Benjamin Block, Co. C, 1/15th Inf. leads the way as 1st Lt. Aaron Wilkerson, fire support officer for Co. C, an interpreter and concerned citizens follow him down a dirt road on the way to Concerned Local Citizen checkpoints in Vinn Jahn Village, Nov. 14.

FOB Q-West highlights Veteran's Day

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd SB Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – World War I, known at the time as “The Great War,” officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany and went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

World War II and the Korean War created millions of additional war veterans in addition to those of the first

World War already honored by Armistice Day. So on June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signs legislation changing the name of the legal holiday from Armistice Day to Veteran’s Day.

On Forward Operation Base Q-West, the Soldiers and civilians celebrated this national holiday by honoring those who have passed and those who put their lives at risk everyday for the greater good of our nation.

“When you think back to previous conflicts, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Desert Storm and Shield, you think about the men and women, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, grandmothers and fathers and the sacrifices they made,” said Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and FOB Q-West. “I just want to remind everyone what a special day this is and happy Veteran’s Day to each and everyone.”

The special guest speaker for the Veteran’s Day celebration was Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton F. Johnson, command sergeant major for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and FOB Q-West. He reminded everyone in the audience why they were there and that they are putting their lives on the line everyday.

“Veteran’s Day is very close to my heart,” said Johnson. “The definition of a veteran is this: someone who has fought in combat. We are all veterans in here.



Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Members of the FOB Q-West Praise Dance Ministry perform in remembrance of their fallen brethren during the FOB’s Veteran’s Day celebration, Nov. 11.

Hunter hosts the first IMCOM airfield workshop

Nancy Gould
Hunter Public Affairs

The Hunter Army Airfield staff was proud to host the first three-day U.S. Army Installation Command workshop at Hunter Club Nov. 14-16, where 75 airfield managers and personnel met to discuss ways to improve and standardize operations at their respective airfields and to network.

It was the first workshop for IMCOM, FORSCOM and other commands, according to Dennis Bennett, the IMCOM airfield operations team leader, who also conducts quality assurance visits at IMCOM airfield divisions.

“Because we’re a premier Army-projection platform, we were showcased during this workshop,” said Jack Dibrell, Hunter Army Airfield Division chief. The group toured some of the airfield division assets — Truscott Departure/Arrival Control

Group facility, along with Saber Hall and the Air Traffic Control Tower.

“We chose Hunter Army Airfield because of its size, complexity and the diversity of its function,” said Bennett. “It’s a great venue to train airfield managers.”

Dibrell said like any other installation, Hunter has its problems just like all the others. “They got to see it all this week – the good, the bad and the ugly.”

Dibrell also wanted workshop participants to see the full range of services at the Truscott Departure/Arrival Control Group facility—including the way USO and Red Cross services operate when Soldiers deploy and redeploy.

Tables, manned by volunteers from both groups, were full of doughnuts, refreshments and coffee, and others with books and miscellaneous items given to Soldiers. “We’re proud of our relationship with these groups and what they do here for Soldiers.”

Besides tours, group sessions were held at the workshop with focus topics such as manpower, funding, IMCOM policy, and the Quality Assurance Evaluation program. Dibrell and other installation airfield managers discussed common challenges and related them to headquarters representatives to help get them resolved.

“I’m impressed with these managers,” said Dibrell. “There was no ‘one-upsmanship’ among us. We were all trying to work together to solve problems and improve our installations.”

Others were also impressed with the workshop and acknowledged their need for it.

“We’ve piggybacked on other conferences since the airfields came under IMCOM four years ago; it’s good to have our own,” said Ron Gerner, the director of airfield operations at Fort Hood, another airfield with power projection capabilities.

Gerner said some 300,000 Soldiers will have deployed from his airfield by the end of this year. “I’m proud of what we do too. I’ve asked to have the group come out to Fort Hood next year.”

The workshops should help to bring operational improvement at all IMCOM airfields, according to Brig. Gen. Dennis Rogers, operations and facilities director at IMCOM.

“Let us know if the forum is right and if the people we’ve included are the right ones,” said Rogers, about the workshop scheduling for next year. Rogers wants the forums to give managers opportunities to push issues forward to headquarters, and for headquarters to provide feedback.

“Our goal is do things properly,” Rogers said during his closing remarks at the conference. “We also want help make operations better. Let us know how we can help to do that.”



Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Brig. Gen. James C. Boozer, 1st AD, deputy commanding general for support, walks along the yard of the newly constructed convoy support center with Col. Darrel K. Williams, commander of 3rd SB, and Lt. Col. Linwood Clark, deputy commander for the 3rd SB, during a visit to FOB Q-West, Oct. 30.

Gen Boozer visits FOB Q-West

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd SB Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Forward Operating Base Q-West hosted a visit from Brig. Gen. James C. Boozer, Deputy Commanding General, 1st Armored Division, Oct. 31.

Boozer arrived late in the day and held a command meeting with Col. Darrel K. Williams, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and FOB Q-West, command teams, and key staff person-

nel. Following the meeting he took a quick tour of the FOB including a stop at the new convoy support center location recently built and ready for use. Now operational, the new CSC serves as a rest stop for Soldiers performing convoy missions including meals and overnight shelter.

Boozer was impressed with the progress that has been made in recent months.

He said that on his next visit that he would like to stay longer and visit more areas on the Q-West Base complex.

ANNA GARRERA

ANNA GARRERA
CREATED THE ITC HILL CLIMBER SYSTEM TO HELP CATHERINE B. LORRA

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ARMY RESERVE

Like her father before her, Anna Garrera knew she wanted to be a Soldier. And though she followed in his footsteps, she created a path all her own. Using the personal courage, dedication and unshakable confidence she's developed in the Army, SGT Garrera is on her way to becoming a physician in the civilian world. By joining the Army Reserve, you'll also keep moving ahead. While continuing to serve your country, you'll get a bonus, extra paycheck and the chance to train near home. Learn more about SGT Anna Garrera and how you can build a future filled with possibilities. Visit armyreserve.com/anna or call 601-USA-ARMY.

